

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15186 121953Z
ACTION EUR-12

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HQ 3 AF RAF MILDENHALL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 15186

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS-83
TAGS: MARR, UK, US
SUBJECT: A-10'S AT BENTWATERS

REF: LONDON 12186

1. LONDON BASED AVIATION WEEK REPORTER, DAVID BROWN, TOLD US HE HAS FORWARDED A STORY TO HIS EDITOR ON THE RECENT A-10 DEPLOYMENT TO EUROPE WHICH MAY BE PRINTED IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE OF AVIATION WEEK. THE STORY BASICALLY COVERS THE A-10 DEPLOYMENT, HOWEVER, IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH HE DISCUSSES CROWDED USAF AIRFIELD CONDITIONS IN GERMANY. THE LAST LINE OF THE STORY, IF PRINTED, WILL SAY SOMETHING LIKE "THE LAST WING OF A-10'S WILL PROBABLY BE LOCATED IN THE UK AT THE RAF AIRFIELD AT BENTWATERS."

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ACTUAL SITUATION IS: (1)
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THE US WOULD PREFER TO BASE THE A-10'S ON THE CONTINENT IF POSSIBLE; (2) THAT A NUMBER OF AIRFIELDS, INCLUDING BENTWATERS ARE UNDER PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES; AND (3) THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, OR IS EVEN CLOSE TO BEING MADE, AT THIS TIME.

3. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

DISPLEASURE OVER THE WAY GREENHAM COMMON WAS HANDLED (REFTEL), WE ARE CONCERNED OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF THE FCO LEARNING ABOUT THIS FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM AVIATION WEEK. RECOMMEND THAT WE INFORMALLY ADVISE THE FCO: (1) THAT THE STORY MAY APPEAR IN AVIATION WEEK; (2) OF THE SITUATION DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 ABOVE (IF CORRECT); (3) THAT THE AVIATION WEEK REPORTER HAS ATTACHED MORE LIKELIHOOD TO THE BENTWATERS POSSIBILITY THAN IS WARRANTED UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND (4) THAT THE US WILL MOST CERTAINLY ADVISE HMG OFFICIALLY WHEN AND IF RAF BENTWATERS OR ANY OTHER RAF BASE BECOMES A SERIOUS CANDIDATE FOR BASING AN A-10 WING.

4. REQUEST GUIDANCE SOONEST.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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